

# Workforce

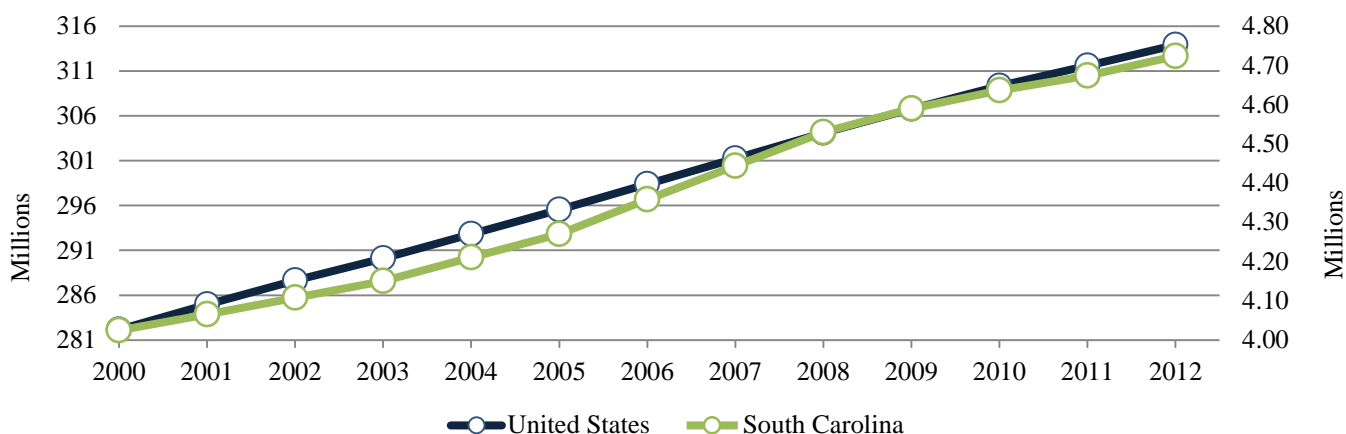
**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce

South Carolina Offers One of the Fastest-Growing, Most Productive Workforces in the Nation, Ensuring Companies Find the Employees They Need.

## WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY *Providing the Right People*

South Carolina is the nation's 10<sup>th</sup> fastest-growing state, increasing its population by 17.4 percent between 2000 and 2012. The United States population grew by 11.3 percent during the same time period. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates)

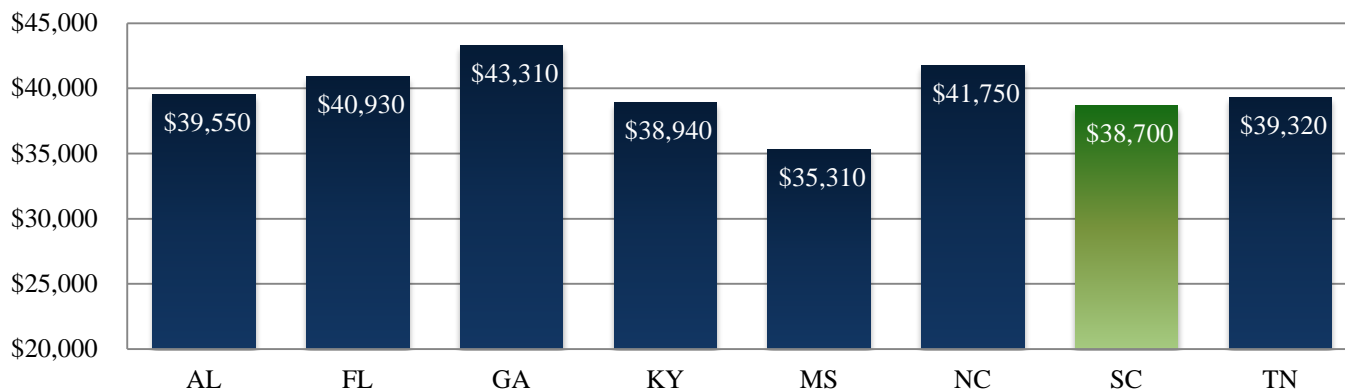
**Population Growth 2000-2012**



## WAGES *Skilled Employees Offer Companies Unparalleled Value*

With a cost of living 12 percent below the national average, South Carolina offers exceptionally productive employees at one of the lowest labor costs in the nation. South Carolina is a right-to-work state and had the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest unionization rate in the nation, only 3.3 percent in 2012. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**Annual Wages in Southeastern States, 2012**



## SKILLED WORKERS *Offering a High Concentration of Technical Employment*

Since 2003, South Carolina's Centers of Economic Excellence Program has created over 2,000 knowledge-based jobs and invested over \$500 million in talent and infrastructure at South Carolina's research universities.

South Carolina is ranked as a top 10 state in employment concentration for several careers needed by growing industries in the state. Some of the occupations include:

- **Chemical Engineers**  
142 percent more than the national average
- **Chemical Processing Operators**  
244 percent more than the national average
- **Chemical Technicians**  
59 percent more than the national average
- **Computer Controlled Machine Operators**  
68 percent more than the national average
- **Industrial Engineering Technicians**  
61 percent more than the national average
- **Industrial Engineers**  
64 percent more than the national average

- **Industrial Machinery Mechanics**  
42 percent more than the national average
- **Industrial Production Managers**  
24 percent more than national average
- **Civil Engineers**  
47 percent more than national average
- **Mechanical Engineers**  
78 percent more than national average
- **Environmental Engineers**  
65 percent more than national average
- **Environmental Engineering Technicians**  
71 percent more than national average
- **Nuclear Engineers**  
120 percent more than national average
- **Nuclear Technicians**  
990 percent more than national average

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2011 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates)

## WORKFORCE TRAINING *Committed to Strengthening the Competitive Edge of Businesses*

The South Carolina Department of Commerce is committed to meeting a business' specific workforce needs. The state has provided invaluable training to businesses through the following programs:

- **Incumbent Worker Training** – offered through the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, may provide grant assistance that can absorb 50-75 percent of the cost associated with customized training and wages during on-the-job training. The program has grown to serve more than 14,000 workers and 200 businesses annually through training and offers a wide variety of funding opportunities and services.
- **readySC™** – offered through the South Carolina Technical College System, can coordinate training needs at no cost for eligible new or expanding companies throughout the

state, tailored to meet a company's workforce requirements. More than a quarter million workers have been trained since the program's inception and it has been recognized as a national training leader by *Expansion Management* magazine.

- **Apprenticeship Carolina™** – also offered through the South Carolina Technical College System, may help businesses learn more about registered apprenticeships and determine if they should be a part of a company's workforce development solution. Apprenticeship Carolina™ specifically supports the development of apprenticeships in occupations with particular concentration on the industry areas critical to South Carolina: advanced manufacturing, construction, energy, healthcare, information technology and tourism/hospitality.

## RECENT RANKINGS *South Carolina is Recognized Nationally*

- CNBC ranks South Carolina's workforce 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The ranking is based on quality and availability of workers as well as union membership and the success of state worker training programs in placing participants in jobs.
- The Community College Futures Assembly, a national think tank that convenes annually to discuss critical issues facing two-year colleges, recognized Apprenticeship Carolina™ as one of ten innovative workforce development best practices.

(Source: CNBC America's Top States for Business, June 2011)

- Besides the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest state overall unionization rate in the nation, South Carolina's unionization rate for manufacturing at 1.6% also ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in the nation.

(Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2012, [www.unionstats.com](http://www.unionstats.com))